

On page 166, line 23, please delete "facilities".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10, 12, and 15 as follows:

1. A process of producing a coke fuel, said method comprising the steps:

(a) obtaining a coke precursor material derived from crude oil, and having a volatile organic component; and

(b) subjecting said coke precursor material to a thermal cracking process for sufficient time and at sufficient temperature and under sufficient pressure so as to promote the production of sponge coke and to produce a coke product having a volatile combustible material (VCM) present in an amount in the range of from about 13% to about 50% by weight.;

wherein said coke product is comprised of sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight.

5. A process according to claim 1 wherein said volatile organic component

combustible material in said coke product is in the range of from about 15% to about 30% by weight.

10. A method for producing energy, said method comprising combusting a fuel, said fuel comprising coke, said coke comprising sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight and having volatile combustible materials in an amount in the range from about 13% to about 50% by weight.

12. A method for producing energy according to claim 10 wherein said fuel comprises a mixture of said coke and oil coal wherein the heat release rate ratio of said coke to said coal in said mixture is greater than about 1:4.

15. A method for producing energy and a method for removing undesirable flue gas components, said method comprising

(a) injection of conversion reagents with sufficient mixing and sufficient residence time at sufficient temperature to convert

undesirable flue gas components to collectible particulates upstream of a particulate control device (PCD) and

(b) collecting said particulates in particulate control device, said particulate control device includes, but is not limited to, a PCD process selected from the group consisting of electrostatic precipitators (dry or wet), filtration, cyclones, and conventional wet scrubbers.

*AN*  
Please add new claims 77-87

77. A process according to claim 2 wherein said sodium levels are reduced to less than about 5 ppm by weight.

78. A process according to claim 1 wherein said coke product is comprised of sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 60% to 100% by weight.

79. A method according to claim 10 wherein said coke has sodium present in an amount less than about 25 ppm by weight.

80. A method according to claim 10 wherein said coke comprises sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 60% to 100% by weight.

81. A coke comprising sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight, said coke having volatile combustible material (VCM) present in an amount in the range of from about 13% to about 50% by weight.

82. A coke according to claim 81 wherein said sponge coke is in an amount of about 60% to 100% by weight.

83. A coke according to claim 81 wherein said volatile combustible material (VCM) is present in an amount in the range of from about 15% to about 30% by weight.